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Ashley, Percy. *Local and Central Government.* Pp. xi, 396. Price, \$3.00. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1906.

The merit of Professor Ashley's book consists in presenting a large mass of valuable information in a form available both for the reading public and for college classes in administration. The author would probably not claim for the work any considerable amount of original investigation, but the secondary authorities have been in the main judiciously selected.

The work is really a text in administration, and, as such, suggests comparison with Goodnow's *Comparative Administrative Law*. As in Goodnow, discussion is confined to England, France, Germany and the United States. Ashley's interest, however, centers in the actual working of administrative machinery; legal discussion is brought in always as throwing light upon some practical problem. This fact makes the book extremely valuable for reference, and its style, if not always fascinating, is sufficiently attractive to reach a comparatively large class of readers. The main thesis—the contrast between the legislative control over local units in England and America, and the administrative control on the continent—is carried through the book with admirable clearness.

Scope and arrangement are perhaps best indicated by headings of chapters. Following an introduction in which the above-mentioned contrast in legal relations is briefly explained, are three chapters upon local administration, in England, France and Prussia. The first division of the work ends with a chapter on the government of American cities. The next three chapters, five, six and seven, constitute a second division. They treat, respectively, the history of local administration in England since the reform bill of 1832, local administration in France since the Revolution, and in Prussia, since the beginning of Stein's reforms in 1806. In the third division, chapters eight to twelve, inclusive, the following topics are discussed: Administrative Law,—Local Authorities and the Legislature,—The Administrative Control of Local Authorities,—The Control of Local Finances,—The Courts of Justice and Local Administration. The literary effect of the work is successful; the elementary exposition is not unduly encumbered, and the chapters dealing with history and with legal relations are given a perfectly definite purpose.

There is, even for a work of this kind, too large a number of technical inaccuracies. Mention is made for instance, in a quotation, of the eleven hundred wards of Philadelphia (p. 198)—the unqualified statement is made that a five-sixths vote is necessary to over-rule the veto of the mayor of New York (p. 199) whereas that majority is necessary only in certain cases. The placing of New York and Chicago in the class of cities whose mayors enjoy only a two-years' term (p. 199), was perhaps correct at the time it was written. Anyone who remembers the jar caused by the misuse of English in foreign texts will regret Professor Ashley's lack of care in the use of foreign terms. The French "juridiction" appears as "jurisdiction," (p. 298), the German umlaut is very frequently omitted (pp. 163, 182, 183, 303), com-

pounds are not correctly divided (p. 163)—all of which betrays a lack of careful proofreading.

American readers will probably feel a lack of proportion in the use of some of the material bearing on recent municipal development in the United States. The effect of the discussion of French local administration is to emphasize to quite an unusual extent the weak side of the prefect's position (pp. 79-83). On the other hand, the statement that the Council of State is the "center of the whole administrative system of France" (p. 74), though in a sense literally true, needs more specific qualification than it receives. These are, however, minor faults, which need but slightly militate against the usefulness of a highly convenient volume.

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Bosanquet, Helen. *The Family.* Pp. 344. Price, \$2.75. New York: Macmillan Co., 1906.

This book is intended as a tribute to one of the most important institutions in human society. The author has done a valuable work in bringing together the results of the most careful investigators into the early history of the institution as well as a study of the modern family. The author believes if the family should ever disappear with the sweeping away of private property that "it will be in no sense a gradual development from the past, but it will be a catastrophe in the moral world." However, while holding firmly to this conviction, she is in sympathy with modern progress. The institution of the family is compatible with, and necessary to secure the best individual development, together with the proper realization of the individual and the welfare of the community.

The history of the family includes a discussion of the patriarchal family and its decay, the pre-historic family accepting Westermarck's conclusions, and a chapter on the family in relation to industry, showing the influence of economic conditions upon its form. We are especially indebted to the author for her study of the modern family, because she makes some valuable contributions. Having found that the possession of land is one of the strongest influences in preserving the unity and continuance of the family, the author looks for some other industrial basis in the modern community. However, in place of industrial co-operation, as in farming communities, she finds among wage earners *economic* co-operation, which consists in contributions towards the maintenance of family by all the wage earners. Also, among all classes, the author finds a family tradition in "trades," forming a basis for binding the generations together. The principal motive arousing the average man to the exertion of his full degree of efficiency is the family; it is the only way of ensuring that one generation will exert itself in the interest of the next. The family finally controls the forces that influence the quality and quantity of population. Here the author makes the point that quantity is only excessive when defective, and, therefore, it is not a question of limitation but of regulation.